

power telescope was used for observing but positive identification of the Reeve was not made until after it was collected when examination showed the presence of the web at the base of the toes. It was feeding in the same locality for two consecutive days but was present, as were the other waders, only when the tide was low exposing the wide mudflats.

The specimen was prepared as a study skin by Mr. Julian Ford and is now in the W.A. Museum (No. A9228). Its particulars are: female, with small ovary and unconvoluted oviduct indicating a young bird; iris, brown; legs, grey; toes, black; bill, blackish-brown, horn at base of lower mandible; weight, 86 gm.; length, 242 mm.; wing, 153, 154; wingspread 408; culmen (to tip of feathers), 29.5; culmen (to base of skull), 36.5; tarsus, 40; trace moult in scapular region and faintest trace on neck.

A. McEvey (*loc. cit.*) states that "continued close attention to waders by field observers might throw light on the Australian status of the Ruff, which at present, must stand as 'rare vagrant'." The present record, coming less than two years after the first specimen was collected, indicates that the Ruff may previously have been overlooked in Australia and may be a rare but regular visitor. It is interesting to note that both Australian records are from the south coast. Apparently the birds were on their way south and could go no further. In all probability they reached the south coast via the east or west coasts, and it seems likely that the Ruff will eventually be found to occur elsewhere in Australia. In its vast range the Ruff shows a tolerance to a wide variety of habitats and could be expected to occur almost anywhere there is water, though tidal rivers and mudflats may be preferred here in Australia. In California where the Ruff has only recently been found to occur (R. G. McCaskie, *The Condor*, 65, 1963: 166) the species shows a preference for small fresh water pools.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Range Extension of the Orchid, *Monadenia micrantha*.—During November 1963 I found the South African orchid, *Monadenia micrantha*, at the Kendenup townsite and the Kendenup school. Specimens were shown to Mr. V. N. Scrventy at the Cranbrook Wild Life Show on November 21.

The history of this introduced orchid in Western Australia is summarised by Rica Erickson (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 3, 1952: 120) who showed that it was spreading from its probable focus, at Albany, and by 1951 had reached Mt. Barker. The Kendenup occurrence appears to be the most northerly reported so far.

—F. W. ROWE, Kendenup.

Blowfish Kills Silver Gull.—At Pelican Point, Swan River Estuary, on September 20, 1963, I came across a dead, brown-fleeced immature Silver Gull (*Larus novaehollandiae*). It appeared to have died only a short time previously, rigor mortis not having set in

completely. Examination revealed the tail of a Blowfish (*Spheroides pleurogramma*) protruding from its throat.

I dissected the bird and found that the fish, which was 4.7 in. long, was quite fresh and complete, digestion not having started. Its body was partly inflated, distending the bird's gullet. It is suggested that the bird was suffocated through not being able to swallow or regurgitate the fish, or, more likely, that the fish being still alive when swallowed had inflated itself in the customary manner of blowfish, thereby causing the death of the bird by pressure on the trachea.

—R. H. STRANGER, Wembley.

Mediterranean Land Snail at Katanning.—Since the review of the spread of the Mediterranean land snail (*Theba pisana*) by D. L. Serventy (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 2: 38; 6: 193) and the recordings of the species at various places on the mainland between Geraldton and Eucla, further observations have been made. One at Pemberton (*W. Aust. Nat.*, 2: 119) was the first more than a few miles inland from the coast. In November 1963 I found the snails at Katanning. A random sample of 50 animals from here was compared with a similar sample gathered at Wembley Downs, about one mile from the sea. None of the Katanning specimens had the all-white shell colour found in a proportion of the Wembley Downs collection. Although there was an overlap, in that the whitest of the Katanning shells were indistinguishable from the darkest of the coastal shells, the inland animals were significantly browner than the coastal ones.

—V. N. SERVENTY, Wembley Downs.

An Observation of the Terek Sandpiper near Perth.—The Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*) appears to be a rare visitor to the south-west portion of this State; the only previous observations having been made by D. L. Serventy at Pelican Point, Swan River Estuary (September 9, 1936) and at the mouth of the Moore River (October 23, 1948), and by A. Burbridge and C. F. H. Jenkins at the Mandurah Estuary (one individual observed several times between November 17 and December 6, 1962). In addition one bird was trapped by C. A. Nicholls at Pelican Point on October 17, 1961.

It is worth while putting on record then that I observed a single individual feeding in company with a small flock of Little Stints (*Erolia ruficollis*) at Pelican Point, during the afternoon of November 2, 1963. The bird, which was immediately identifiable by its long, black, upturned bill and bright orange legs, was very active (as were the Little Stints also) running quickly and haphazardly over the mud flats, only pausing occasionally to probe deep into the mud with its bill.

Other waders present on the Point at the same time were Grey Plover, Red-eapped Dotterel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Great Knot and Curlew Sandpiper.

—R. H. STRANGER, Wembley.

*On the same day an individual was seen at Albany by members of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, during their annual interstate field outing.—Ed.